

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a communication system in which a first station initiates communication with at least a second station and provides an initial real-time media signal for transmission to the second station, wherein the initial real-time media signal comprises an initial real-time media stream of a packet-based real-time media session between the first station and the second station, a method comprising:

buffering the initial real-time media signal until ~~a transmission path exists~~ an RTP leg is established over which to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station; and

thereafter sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first station sends the real-time media signal to an intermediate entity, and the intermediate entity sends the real-time media signal along its way toward the second station;

buffering the initial real-time media signal until ~~a transmission path exists~~ an RTP leg is established over which to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until a ~~transmission path exists~~ an RTP leg is established over which to send the initial real-time media signal from the first station to the intermediate entity; and

sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises sending the initial real-time media signal via the RTP leg from the first station to the intermediate entity.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2,

wherein the intermediate entity comprises a communication server that establishes respective RTP legs with the first station and the second station and bridges the RTP legs together; and

~~wherein buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until a transmission path exists to send the initial real-time media signal from the first station to the intermediate entity comprises:~~

~~buffering the initial real-time media signal in the first station until an RTP leg has been established between the first station and the communication server.~~

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1,

the first station sends the real-time media signal to an intermediate entity, and the intermediate entity sends the real-time media signal along its way toward the second station;

buffering the initial real-time media signal until ~~a transmission path exists~~ an RTP leg is established over which to send the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises buffering the initial real-time media signal in the intermediate entity until a ~~transmission path exists~~ an RTP leg is established over which to send the initial real-time media signal from the intermediate entity to the second station; and

sending the initial real-time media signal along its way toward the second station comprises sending the initial real-time media signal via the RTP leg from the intermediate entity to the second station.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4,

wherein the intermediate entity comprises a communication server that establishes respective RTP legs with the first station and the second station and bridges the RTP legs together; and

~~wherein buffering the initial real time media signal in the intermediate entity until a transmission path exists to send the initial real time media signal from the intermediate entity to the second station comprises:~~

~~buffering the initial real time media signal in the communication server until an RTP leg has been established between the communication server and the second station.~~

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first station is a mobile station.

7-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method of initiating a push-to-talk (PTT) communication session between an initiating mobile station and at least one terminating mobile station, the method comprising:

the initiating mobile station receiving an initiating user's speech signal and buffering the initiating user's speech signal in a mobile station buffer;

while buffering the initiating user's speech signal, the initiating mobile station working to establish an initiating RTP leg with a PTT server;

the initiating mobile station buffering the initiating user's speech signal until the initiating RTP leg is established;

in response to establishment of the initiating RTP leg with the PTT server, the initiating mobile station transmitting the initiating user's speech signal from the mobile station buffer via the initiating RTP leg to the PTT server;

the PTT server receiving the initiating user's speech signal and buffering the initiating user's speech signal in a PTT server buffer;

while buffering the initiating user's speech signal, the PTT server working to establish a terminating RTP leg with a terminating mobile station; and

in response to establishment of the terminating RTP leg with the terminating mobile station, the PTT server transmitting the initiating user's speech signal from the PTT server buffer via the terminating RTP leg to the terminating mobile station.